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WHOLE NO. 35.

## THE ALLIANCE.

### A SYNOPSIS OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT OCALA.

#### Some Very Interesting Reading.

##### Home and Farm.]

The National Farmers' Alliance met at Ocala, Fla., December 2, 1890. President Rogers, of the Florida Alliance, presided, and an address was delivered by President Polk. Concerning the proposed national legislative council, Mr. Polk said:

"I would respectfully suggest that a legislative council, to be composed of your national president, who shall be ex-officio chairman, and the presidents of all the State Alliances represented in the supreme council, and that this body shall hold its annual meeting within sixty days after the adjournment of the supreme council, at such time and place as may be indicated by the national president; that it be empowered and authorized to appoint such legislative committees as in its judgment may be wise, and that it be required to transmit to each of the States, in printed form, through the national secretary, for distribution to the reform press, lecturers, and members of the order, all measures or bills, together with arguments in their favor, as they may decide should be enacted into laws."

C. A. Bower, an old Union soldier from Indiana, moved that all ex-soldiers in the hall, who endorsed the sentiments expressed in the speech of President Foulks, of South Dakota, with reference to the burial of sectionalism, rise up to be counted. The motion prevailed, and between forty and fifty stood up amid the wildest enthusiasm.

Under the inspiration of this good feeling an ex-Union soldier from Wisconsin stood up in his seat and called upon all Union soldiers present to give three cheers for the old Confederates in the Alliance. They were given with a will. Then it was the Confederates' turn, and they cheered the old soldiers of the Union with a volume and heartiness that raised no doubt as to the genuineness of their feeling. The cheers ended with a wild, old-fashioned "Rebel yell," and as its echoes died away, one aged veteran of the Confederacy shouted in a voice that rang out clearly through the hall: "That's the genuine article; I've heard it before."

The report of the committee showed 88 actual delegates present from the following States, each State having a full accredited delegation in attendance:

Alabama, 5; Arkansas, 5; Colorado, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 7; Illinois, 2; Indiana, 2; Indian Territory, 2; Kansas, 8; Kentucky, 5; Louisiana, 4; Maryland, 2; Michigan, 3; Mississippi, 4; Missouri, 6; North Carolina, 5; Pennsylvania, 2; South Dakota, 2; South Carolina, 4; North Dakota, 2; Tennessee, 4; Texas, 4; Virginia, 5; West Virginia, 2.

##### WEDNESDAY'S SESSION.

Livingston, president of the Georgia Alliance, demanded an investigation by an impartial committee of charges and insinuations against himself, President Polk, and Macune. Polk and Macune joined Livingston in the demand for an investigation.

It was decided that a committee of investigation should be appointed and that it should consist of one member from each State delegation

in the convention, to be selected by the delegation itself.

In the afternoon resolutions were unanimously adopted denouncing the Lodge election bill, also resolutions denouncing the Louisiana and all other lotteries.

At the night session of the Alliance, Gen. John H. Rice, of Kansas, addressed the convention on the improvement of the Mississippi River by urging an appropriation by Congress of \$9,000,000 in addition to \$1,000,000 already appropriated.

One delegate expressed it as his belief that there was a big railroad scheme behind this plan, intimating also that he had it on good authority that a big syndicate of capitalists had bought up the available lands near the mouth of the river in anticipation of a rise of values and building a railroad through them.

While the delegates expressed no opposition to any plan comprehending the improvement of the Mississippi River, and the relief of the people within its borders, they were still unwilling to give their endorsement to any plan of the details of which they were not fully advised.

The delegates from Mississippi and Louisiana could give no definite information about the project, and the resolution was finally tabled.

##### THURSDAY'S SESSION.

The proceedings of the Alliance for the third day were secret and generally devoid of interest.

The Colored Alliance, Thursday, December 4, adopted the following resolution favoring the doctrine of equal rights and special privileges for none, and being opposed to the abuse and prostitution of the taxing power of the Government and the enactment of class legislation, by which one industry is fostered and built up at the expense of another, we protest against the passing of the Conger lard bill, while, in the interest of public health and morals and to secure pure food and drugs, we favor and pray for the passage of the Paddock pure food bill.

The resolution was adopted unanimously. The colored Alliance speakers claimed that there are 75,000 negroes employed in the production of cotton-seed oil, and that the Conger lard bill, if passed, would defraud them of their wages.

The Colored Alliance also adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That we, the delegates attending the National Colored Farmers' Alliance, do hereby, in meeting assembled at Ocala, Fla., urge upon Congress to pass the Lodge election bill, and let it apply to all sections of the United States."

##### FRIDAY'S SESSION.

The report made concerning the charges against Polk, Livingston, and Macune, was a compromise. It condemns the course of the three leaders, though it declares they have discovered nothing derogatory to their characters. The following resolutions were adopted without objections:

(1) That we have been unable to ascertain a single fact implicating in any way, shape, or form, the high character and standing and personal and official reputation of our worthy president, L. L. Polk, but we regret the writing of the Norwood letter.

(2) As to Brother Livingston, president of the Georgia State Alliance, we do not find anything derogatory of his personal or official

high standing, but your committee is not quite prepared to endorse his course in the Georgia Senatorial contest.

(3) That in the case of Dr. C. W. Macune nothing has been found to lessen our confidence in his personal integrity and loyalty to the order; however, we regret his official connection with the Georgia Senatorial contest."

##### SATURDAY'S SESSION.

Mr. Powderly addressed the Alliance delegates at Exposition Hall. He advocated reform in the employment of child labor, insisted that the Government had the right to control the railroads, and then made a fiery attack upon the employment of labor-saving machinery as defrauding workmen of the right to work. He was especially bitter against all electric devices, declaring that capitalists, in their greed, have even cornered God's wrath and compelled it to do their bidding. He denounced sectionalism, and said: "No matter what politicians may say, we, of the two sections, are together again, and together we will fight monopoly." This sentiment brought forth great applause.

John Davis, of Kansas, spoke upon finances, and this closed the exercises of "Labor Day."

The most exciting debate of the session related to the report adopted Friday, concerning Dr. Macune, President Hall demanded a hearing so he might state his reasons for refusing to sign the white-washing report. In a most dignified manner and amid a foreboding silence he proceeded to say that he had refused to sign the report of the investigating committee for the following reasons:

(1) Because it censured President Polk for writing the Norwood letters—a censure which was unjust to Polk for various reasons.

(2) Because it exonerated Dr. Macune, although Macune had actually and openly admitted before the committee that he had gone to Georgia and formed a combination among Alliance legislators and orders in the interest of Pat Calhoun for United States Senator; because Macune had also admitted that Calhoun had loaned him (Macune) \$2,000, and because Macune had further admitted that he remained sixteen days in Georgia lobbying for Calhoun's election.

(3) Because Macune had admitted before the committee that he had for the past year traveled on transportation furnished him by the West Point Terminal Company."

With reference to a "loan" of \$2,000 from Calhoun, it was alleged that Macune admitted before the committee that he gave, as security therefor, an order for \$2,000 on the National Alliance treasury. Proof had also been adduced as to the policy of the National Economist and the Georgia Alliance Farmer being in the interests of corporations and monopolists. This chance from the former policy in favor of the farming interest had been gradual, but ultimately so marked as to have practically confirmed the suspicion of outside financial influence at that time. Other proofs as to lobbying and several minor charges had also been presented.

Mr. Macune was asked at supper time by the Associated Press representative with reference to the outcome of the manifesto.

"It will amount to nothing. The council will not recede from its action of yesterday. If anything its

exoneration of me would be complete."

As soon as the convention was called to order, Colonel Livingston arose and said that at the request of members of the Alliance, President Hall, of Missouri, had agreed to withdraw his explanation of his reasons for refusing to sign the committee report yesterday. This, he said, was done in the interest of harmony. Then Dr. Macune arose to a question of personal privilege and addressed himself briefly to the convention. He denied the truth of some of the statements in the paper read by Mr. Hall, but his language was moderate and temperate. He sat down amid great applause.

Then Mr. Hall said: "While I withdraw the written explanation for the sake of harmony and peace, I do not change my original opinion."

This speech was greeted with hisses, and with some applause as well.

The remainder of the evening session was devoted chiefly to routine work.

Just as the evening session was about to adjourn to Monday, it was resolved to endorse the National Economist.

##### MONDAY'S SESSION.

The Alliance adopted a memorial to Congress condemning the Conger lard bill, and calling for the passage of the Paddock pure food bill.

The financial policy of the Alliance was formulated by the committee on legislation and contained the following demands:

(1) Abolition of national banks, the establishment of sub-treasuries which shall loan money to the people at 2 per cent. on real estate, or the deposit of farm product.

(2) The prohibition of dealing in futures.

(3) Free coinage of silver.

(4) The prohibition of alien ownership of land.

(5) A reform and reduction of the tariff.

(6) Control by the Government of the railroads and telegraph.

President Hall, of the Missouri Alliance, opposed the sub-treasury scheme for the following reasons:

(1) It is in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

(2) It is subversive of, and directly opposed to the constitution, principles, and demands of our own order.

(3) It is unjust and inequitable.

(4) It is very extravagant.

(5) It would bring financial ruin to the farmers of our entire country, and to all other classes of business.

(6) It will have, and is now having, the effect of drawing the minds of farmers and other laborers of our country from the greatest curse of the age—class legislation—and if adopted, will fasten these curses upon us for all time."

Mr. Hall said that the sub-treasury measure was purely "class legislation," and he argued at length in proof of his statement. Among other things on this point, he said: "It would lose us millions of members in our order, the esteem, aid and sympathy of thousands of religious, agricultural, and political papers that have aided us in the past and the confidence of all the good men and woman who have bid us God-speed."

"It is my opinion, based on my experience gained in traveling and lecturing in 106 out of 114 counties of our State, while your State lecturer, that if our order should

take such a step, it would destroy the order in Missouri in less than ninety days."

Jerry Simpson, Congressman-elect from Kansas, said that State last year raised 270,000,000 bushels of corn, which the farmers sold at prices varying from 13½ cents to 14½ cents per bushel, but that of the entire amount the grain gamblers in Chicago got control of 230,000,000 bushels and sold it at 45 cents per bushel, which took \$60,000,000 from the pockets of the farmers of Kansas. If the United States Government had protected the farmers as it protects the gamblers, this never could have happened. If the farmers had got this \$60,000,000 they could have devoted \$30,000,000 of it to the payment of farm mortgages, and have used the remainder for their home comforts and farm improvements.

Mr. Clark, of Texas, favored the sub-treasury plan. "We must," he said, "have fluctuating money medium or go to the wall."

Other speeches were made by Mr. Wade, of Tennessee; Dr. Macune, Harry Brown, of Georgia; Harry Tracy, of Texas; and Mr. Davie, of Kentucky, and the demands of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union were finally adopted by a vote of 79 to 9.

Washington was abandoned as the place for holding the next meeting, and the national legislative council will decide at its first meeting upon some other city, either in Indiana or Illinois.

At the night session a resolution was passed urging the establishment of postal savings banks, and Messrs. Demming, of Pennsylvania; Page, of Virginia; and Houston, of West Virginia, were appointed to arrange for a grand summer encampment, time and place to be fixed hereafter.

The national executive committee was authorized to formulate a plan for a mutual life association and report at the next annual meeting.

Just before adjournment, Mr. Buchanan, of Tennessee, took occasion to denounce those who had furnished information to the press as "scoundrels, liars, knaves, and traitors."

Then the National Alliance passed resolutions of thanks to all who had extended courtesies to members (except newspaper men) and at 10 o'clock adjourned.

##### TWO AT THE PRICE OF ONE.

The original and enterprising departure of The St. Louis Republic in sending two papers of six pages every week to the subscribers of its weekly edition, in place of one 10-page paper, is an earnest of the good treatment promised from time to time in other ways. The plan of issuing twice a week has proved very satisfactory to all The Republic's readers, who find that they get the news earlier than is possible by any other weekly paper, while paying only \$1 a year. Another original feature of The Republic is the publication of three special State editions, which contain all the State news of Missouri, Illinois and Texas; thus relieving the general edition of the mass of merely local news which usually loads the columns of other weeklies, and making The Republic the best general weekly in the country. Now is the time to subscribe. Remember the price is only \$1 per annum, and any one sending in the subscriptions of four new subscribers, will receive one additional copy free. Sample copies and a premium catalogue of forty-eight pages will be sent free on application. Address all orders, The Republic, St. Louis, Mo.